

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 7. (canceled)

1           8. (new) A melt filter for cleaning a plastic melt  
2     issuing from an extruder, the filter comprising:

3           a wheel rotatable about an axis and having an outer rim  
4     and a plurality of spokes forming an annular array of axially open  
5     spaces;

6           a pair of housing plates axially sandwiching and  
7     completely covering the wheel and forming offset from the axis a  
8     melt passage extending axially through the wheel at the spaces;

9           removable filter elements braced axially against the  
10    wheel at the spaces between the spokes, one of the plates being  
11    formed with an edge cutout of a dimension greater than an angular  
12    width of one of the filter elements and smaller or equal to twice  
13    this angular width, whereby filter elements can be removed from the  
14    wheel at the cutout; and

15          a ratchet drive engaging the rim and operable to  
16    angularly move the wheel about the axis in steps.

1           9. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 8 wherein the  
2    one housing plate has a part that can cover and close the cutout  
3    during normal operation of the melt filter and that can open and  
4    uncover the cutout for changing a filter element.

1           10. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 8 wherein an  
2 angular spacing between the passage where it passes through the  
3 disk and the cutout is at least equal to the angular filter-element  
4 width element plus an angular dimension of one of the spokes and at  
5 most equal to twice the angular filter-element width.

1           11. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 8 wherein an  
2 area of the disk through which the melt flows is between 12% and  
3 18% of a total area of the disk.

1           12. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 9 wherein an  
2 area of the disk through which the melt flows is between 14% and  
3 16% of a total area of the disk.

1           13. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 8 wherein  
2 each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the filter disk equal  
3 to at most 10% of a total area of the disk.

1           14. (new) The melt filter defined in claim 13 wherein  
2 each step of the disk exposes a fresh area of the filter disk equal  
3 to between 6% and 7% of a total area of the disk.